

REMARKS

At the time the present Office Action was mailed (November 28, 2005), claims 34-52 were pending in the above-captioned application. In this response, claims 40-42 have been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 43-46 and 52 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 34-39 and 43-52 are currently pending.

In the November 28, 2005 Office Action, claims 34-39 and 46-52 were allowed and the remaining claims were either rejected or objected to. More specifically, the status of the application in light of this Office Action is as follows:

- (A) Claims 46 and 52 stand objected to on the basis of informalities;
- (B) Claims 40 and 44-45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,376,380 to Tang et al. ("Tang"); and
- (C) Claims 34-39 and 46-52 are allowed, with claims 41-43 indicated to be allowable if rewritten to be in independent form.

A. Response to the Claim Objections

Claims 46 and 52 were objected to on the basis of informalities. The informalities have been corrected in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, the objections to claims 46 and 52 should be withdrawn.

B. Response to the Section 102 Rejections

Claims 40 and 44-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(e) as being anticipated by Tang. Without commenting on or conceding the merits of this rejection, these claims have been either cancelled or rewritten to be in a form indicated by the Examiner to be allowable. More particularly, claim 40 has been cancelled and therefore, the Section 102 rejection of claim 40 is now moot. Claims 44 and 45 have been amended to depend from claim 43. Claim 43, which the Examiner indicated would be allowable if rewritten to be in independent form, has been so amended. Accordingly, the Section 102 rejections of claims 44 and 45 should be withdrawn for at

least the reason that they depend from claim 43, and for the additional features of these dependent claims.

C. Response to the Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 34-39 and 46-52 were indicated to be allowed. Of these claims, claims 34-39 and 47-51 have not been amended in this paper. Claims 46 and 52 have been amended without narrowing the scopes of these claims, solely to respond to the informalities identified by the Examiner.

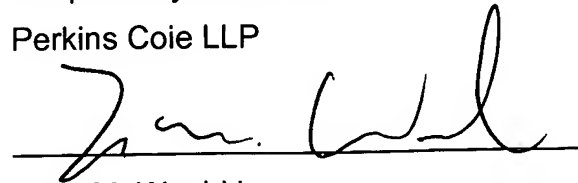
Claims 41-43 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten to be in independent form. As discussed above, claim 43 has been so amended and accordingly, the objection to claim 43 should be withdrawn. Claims 41 and 42 have been cancelled without prejudice, and accordingly, the objections to these claims should be withdrawn.

D. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the claims pending in the application comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and patentably define over the applied art. A Notice of Allowance is, therefore, respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-3257.

Respectfully submitted,

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